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# SCHOOL LUNCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUED TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

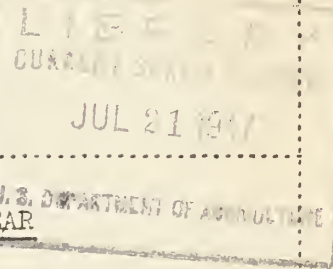
Bulletin No. 5

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June 1947

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
56 Third Street, S. E.  
Huron, South Dakota



## SCHOOL LUNCHES SERVED MANY CHILDREN DURING PAST YEAR

As the end of the school year draws near, let's take a brief look at the school lunch program. A report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture covering the first half of the past school year shows that more than seven million school children in the nation received noon meals at schools where Federal assistance was available.

Closer home...the report showed that 1 million, 800 thousand school children in the Midwest states took part in the school lunch program. South Dakota's participation includes around 215 schools serving nearly 19,000 children daily. Of this number, 28 were parochial schools with 3,566 participating children.

Under the National School Lunch Act passed by Congress last year, Federal funds defrayed part of the expenses in South Dakota, with the local sponsoring schools and parents taking care of the remaining costs. In addition, surplus food products were channeled into school lunch use, and limited Federal funds were available for the purchase of lunchroom equipment. The Federal end of the lunch program in South Dakota is administered by the Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture directly for participating private and parochial schools, and was handled the past year in cooperation with the State Department of Social Security regarding public schools in the program.

School lunches have two very important benefits. First, they assist very materially in maintaining and improving the health of growing school boys and girls...and second, they provide another market outlet for the many products that farmers raise.

### YOUR SCHOOL LUNCH CONTRACT

All sponsors of School Lunch programs in private and parochial schools whose agreements were renewed as of May 1, 1947, under the special reinstatement entitled "Renewal of National School Lunch Agreement," consequently had their contracts put in force again and these same original agreements, therefore, are continuous as explained in Paragraph 23 of the same. However, a new application form, requesting information about your plans, participation, balance of



program funds, opening date for 1947-48, and similar data, will be sent to each sponsor before school opens next September.

NEXT YEAR'S  
PROGRAM

Definite information is not yet available regarding the operation of the School Lunch Program for 1947-1948. It is assumed that private and parochial schools, upon application as above explained, will be permitted to carry on and operate their local programs under their present agreements as reinstated by the renewals mentioned. Subject to action taken by the Congress on appropriations each year, the National School Lunch Program is designed to provide assistance to sponsors of school lunch programs in the form of reimbursement payments regarding purchases of food and necessary equipment, and it likewise provides limited funds for the purchase of foods which are distributed directly to the participating schools.

EQUIPMENT IS  
PROPERTY OF  
SCHOOL LUNCH  
PROGRAM

Regarding ownership of school lunch equipment purchased with the help of nonfood assistance funds under Public Law No. 396, the equipment thus acquired belongs solely to the School Lunch program of the school for which aid was requested and in which the equipment is being used. An exact inventory record should be maintained, showing names of items, trade names and serial numbers, size, quantity of each, and similar descriptions for identification purposes. It becomes the duty of the school authorities to act as custodian of any equipment which was purchased with funds provided by the National School Lunch Act.

SAFE-KEEPING  
OF RECORDS

All School Lunch records should be safely kept along with other permanent records of the school. Reference will also need to be made by you to such records and the information they contain when you apply for program participation again for the ensuing year. Records should be in good order and readily available, which will prove definitely helpful to present school officials and sponsors as well as assist any new teachers or school officials who might be expected to work with the program next year. It is important that sponsors file a copy of their year-end inventory report of foods and equipment with the permanent records.

CANNING FOR  
YOUR SCHOOL  
LUNCH PROGRAM

Schools will find it most helpful to can or freeze as much as possible of their own foods during the summer months for lunch-room use next winter. Food preservation now will assist sponsors to serve their students health-protecting fruits and vegetables the year round at reasonable costs.

For helpful suggestions regarding plans for a local canning unit for the benefit of your school, please refer to the leaflet, sent to you recently, titled "Canning for School Lunches," USDA-PMA, April 1947.

HELPFUL  
SUGGESTIONS FOR  
PROGRAM SPONSORS

The following pointers will be found helpful and will serve as reminders in the event they apply to your operations:

1. Keep an accurate inventory of all equipment and property.
2. Prepare and keep a year-end inventory of all supplies and provisions on hand when your program closes.



3. Clean up storage space before storing supplies for the summer. Make sure proper temperature and adequate ventilation are maintained.
4. Prevent damage from insects, rodents, and water seepage, by exercising the proper safeguards.
5. Dispose of waste papers, rubbish, and oily rags.
6. Exercise the necessary precautions regarding any dangers from electric switches and wiring and from gas connections, and pertaining to the care of water faucets, sinks, and drains during the summer months.
7. Keep cabinets and cupboards closed and provide for the covering of utensils, dishes, equipment, and tables. For storage of special equipment (such as refrigerators, stoves, etc.), consult the instructions regarding the same, or contact the dealer from whom such equipment was secured.
8. Remove fire hazards. Prevent fire!
9. After you have completed your summer's canning for the School Lunch, be sure to review again the above pointers for direct attention to any applicable suggestions.

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"...Better nutrition of the entire population will lead us far along the road to better health. No one doubts that improvement of health of the Nation will pay dividends in actual dollars and cents. It will also pay dividends in increased well-being and happiness."

-- M. L. Wilson, Chief, Nutrition Programs,  
U.S.D.A.

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